

Honors Program

- **Minor: 16 credit hours**
- **GPA required for graduation: 3.3 cumulative**

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- **Capstone: Honors Thesis**
- **Research: HON 401 and HON 402**
- **Other Requirements: Enroll in at least one honors course each semester. Earn a C or better in each honors course.**

Description of Honors Program: The mission of the McKendree University Honors Program is to foster a unique community of curious and motivated thinkers who imagine themselves as global citizens.

The honors program offers students on the Lebanon campus a qualitatively different educational experience. Specifically, the program provides students an opportunity to think critically about a wide range of disciplines and to complete an independent research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

The honors experience provides a number of benefits to students: participation in general education classes that are exclusive to honors students; opportunities to design seminar courses with faculty members; the development of research projects that culminate in a senior thesis presentation to the campus community; and mutually designed seminar courses with faculty members. The honors program also offers a competitive advantage for students interested in applying to graduate school, medical school, or law school.

Student Learning Outcomes

The goals of the program include

- Enabling honors students to explore the liberal arts in greater depth and variety than the traditional general education curriculum.
- Providing honors students with an exceptional level of student-faculty interaction that helps them develop into knowledgeable and ethical critical thinkers.
- Providing honors students with ongoing opportunities to attend cultural events and other educational activities relevant to the honors program.
- Providing honors students with an opportunity to engage in independent research, preparing them for graduate study or employment in their major fields.
- Providing honors students a competitive advantage when applying for graduate schools and searching for employment opportunities.
- Enhancing the academic experience of the campus community by integrating scholarship and service to the university and the broader community.

Requirements for admission to the Honors Program for incoming first-year students:

Students must have earned a minimum high school GPA of 3.6 (A=4.0) and a minimum composite ACT score of 27 (or a minimum combined SAT score of 1200).

Requirements for admission to the Honors Program for transfer students:

Interested students or their recommenders should reach out to the Director of the Honors Program. To be considered for the Honors Program, a transfer student must provide a recommendation by a faculty or staff member at the student's previous institution or at McKendree. The student must also be a member of a recognized honor society at their previous institution or have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA from the previous institution (if the student is in the first semester at McKendree) or a 3.0 cumulative GPA from McKendree (if the student is not in the first semester at McKendree).

Requirements for completion of the Honors Program for transfer students:

Transfer students must take HON 280–Intellectual Climate Seminar and complete HON 300–Honors Practicum or take at least one general education Honors course.

Transfer students must also complete HON 401 – Honors Thesis I and HON 402 – Honors Thesis II. See * below.

Requirements for admission to the Honors Program for McKendree students not part of the Honors Program upon matriculation:

Interested students or their recommenders should reach out to the Director of the Honors Program. In order to be considered for the Honors Program, a student must provide a recommendation by a McKendree faculty or staff member. The student must also be a member of an honor society at McKendree or have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA from McKendree.

Requirements for completion of the Honors Program for McKendree students not part of the Honors Program upon matriculation:

Same as for transfer students.

* During the final two semesters, all honors students enroll in HON 401–Honors Thesis I and HON 402–Honors Thesis II and complete a research thesis or a creative product under the mentorship of a full-time faculty member. Each project must be approved in advance by both a faculty mentor and the Director of the Honors Program. The honors thesis may expand upon a student’s major capstone project. The thesis, however, must be a distinct and separate project from any capstone requirement in a student’s major. Students cannot complete one project and fulfill both the major capstone and the honors thesis requirement. The honors thesis should go beyond the ordinary requirements of a major capstone project.

To remain in the Honors Program, all honors students must:

1. Maintain a cumulative 3.3 GPA. Students will receive one probationary semester if their GPA is below 3.3. Any student with a GPA below 3.3 after two consecutive semesters may no longer enroll in an honors course or graduate from the honors program.
2. Successfully complete HON 401 and HON 402 in their final two semesters;

Honors courses are designated with an “H” on student transcripts. The Director of the Honors Program will be an academic advisor for all honors students. Students who successfully complete all requirements in the program and who meet all other graduation requirements of McKendree University will be identified on their transcripts and diplomas as graduates of the McKendree Honors Program.

HONORS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS		17 crs.
HON 280	INTELLECTUAL CLIMATE SEMINAR	1
HON 401	HONORS THESIS I	2
HON 402	HONORS THESIS II	2
Additional honors courses		12

Honors Program (HON)

HON 280 **1**

INTELLECTUAL CLIMATE SEMINAR

This seminar is designed to integrate honors students into McKendree's intellectual climate. Students will attend events such as speakers, films, and performances at the Hettenhausen Center for the Arts, Brown Bag presentations, and McKendree University Gallery of Art exhibits. Students will also read and discuss relevant texts regarding the political, cultural, and/or artistic contexts of each event. May be taken each semester for credit.

HON 300 **3**

HONORS PRACTICUM

This course provides an opportunity for honors students to conduct research with a full-time McKendree faculty member. The course expectation is 45 hours of work over the course of the semester. Instructor consent required. May be repeated for credit up to three times.

HON 380-389 **1**

HONORS SEMINARS

These seminars vary widely in substance and are mutually developed by both students and faculty in the honors program.

HON 401 **2**

HONORS THESIS I

Students develop a thesis proposal and write the first draft of a research topic in their field of interest. The thesis may be related to a senior thesis within certain majors.

HON 402 **2**

HONORS THESIS II

Students complete a final draft of the senior thesis and present it to the campus community. The thesis may be related to the senior thesis within certain majors.

HON 480 **1-3**

INDEPENDENT STUDY